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Agenda item 101
Crime prevention and criminal justice

Preparations for the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders

Note by the Secretariat

By its resolution 1998/13, the Economic and Social Council recommended to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution entitled "Preparations for the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders". The text of the draft resolution is reproduced below.

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 52/91 of 12 December 1997, on preparations for the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders,

Considering that, pursuant to its resolutions 415 (V) of 1 December 1950 and 46/152 of 18 December 1991, the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders is to be convened in the year 2000,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1993/32 of 27 July 1993 and the draft rules of procedure for United Nations congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders annexed to that resolution,

Emphasizing the role of the Tenth Congress as a consultative body of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, in accordance with paragraph 29 of the statement of principles and programme of action of the Programme annexed to General Assembly resolution 46/152,

Aware of the important work to be accomplished by the regional preparatory meetings for the Tenth Congress,

Stressing the importance of undertaking all the preparatory activities for the Tenth Congress in a timely and concerted manner,

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Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the progress made in the preparations for the Tenth Congress,[1]

1. *Accepts with gratitude* the invitation of the Government of Austria to host the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders at Vienna;

2. *Decides* to hold the Tenth Congress from 10 to 17 April 2000, with pre-congress consultations to be held on 9 April 2000;

3. *Approves* the following provisional agenda for the Tenth Congress, finalized by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its seventh session:

1. Opening of the Congress.
2. Organizational matters.
3. Promoting the rule of law and strengthening the criminal justice system.
4. International cooperation in combating transnational crime: new challenges in the twenty-first century.
5. Effective crime prevention: keeping pace with new developments.
6. Offenders and victims: accountability and fairness in the justice process.
7. Adoption of the report of the Congress.

4. *Notes* that the Commission, at its seventh session, reviewed a discussion guide for the regional preparatory meetings for the Tenth Congress;

5. *Endorses* the programme of work for the Tenth Congress, including the holding of four practically oriented technical workshops on the following subjects:

(*a*) Combating corruption;

(*b*) Crimes related to the computer network;

(*c*) Community involvement in crime prevention;

(*d*) Women in the criminal justice system;

6. *Decides* that the theme of the Tenth Congress should be "Crime and justice: meeting the challenges of the twenty-first century";

7. *Emphasizes* the importance of the workshops and invites Member States, non-governmental organizations and other relevant entities to support financially, organizationally and technically the preparations for the workshops, including the preparation and circulation of relevant background material;

8. *Welcomes* the offer of the institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network to assist in the preparations for the workshops;

9. *Invites* donor countries to cooperate with developing countries to ensure their full participation in the workshops;

10. *Encourages* Governments to undertake preparations for the Tenth Congress at an early stage by all appropriate means, including, where appropriate, the establishment of national preparatory committees, with a view to contributing to a focused and productive discussion on the topics and to actively participating in the organization and follow-up of the workshops;

[1] E/CN.15/1998/2.

11. *Decides*, without prejudice to the current preparatory arrangements for the Tenth Congress, to streamline and minimize the costs of the preparation and servicing of the regional preparatory meetings by shortening their duration and limiting their documentation, by holding them in conjunction with other regional meetings or, if they are not absolutely necessary, by not convening them at all;

12. *Also decides* that the savings achieved should be used in servicing meetings and supporting the priority programme activities of the Centre for International Crime Prevention of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention of the Secretariat;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General:

(a) To undertake the necessary logistic steps, in collaboration with Member States and the institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network, to mobilize the participation of interested partners in the preparations for the four workshops;

(b) To ensure, in collaboration with Member States, a wide and effective programme of public information related to the preparations for the Tenth Congress, to the Congress itself and to the implementation of its conclusions;

14. *Requests* the Commission, as the preparatory body for the United Nations congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders, to accord high priority at its eighth session to the finalization in good time of all the necessary organizational and substantive arrangements;

15. *Also requests* the Commission at its eighth session to prepare a draft declaration for submission to the Tenth Congress, taking into account the results of the regional preparatory meetings;

16. *Urges* the regional preparatory meetings to examine the substantive agenda items and workshop topics of the Tenth Congress and to make action-oriented recommendations to serve as a basis for the draft declaration to be considered by the Commission at its eighth session;

17. *Requests* the Tenth Congress to elaborate a single declaration containing its recommendations on the various substantive items of its agenda with a view to submitting that declaration to the Commission for consideration at its ninth session;

18. *Decides* that the Commission, at its tenth session, should undertake a review of the role, function, periodicity and duration of the United Nations congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders, including the issue of regional preparatory meetings;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure proper follow-up of the present resolution and to report thereon to the General Assembly through the Commission at its eighth session.

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Transnational organized crime

Note by the Secretariat

By its resolution 1998/14, the Economic and Social Council recommended to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution entitled "Transnational organized crime". The text of the draft resolution is reproduced below.

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 49/159 of 23 December 1994 and 52/85 of 12 December 1997,

Taking note of the Buenos Aires Declaration on Prevention and Control of Organized Transnational Crime, adopted by the Regional Ministerial Workshop on Follow-up to the Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan against Organized Transnational Crime, held at Buenos Aires from 27 to 30 November 1995,[1] the Dakar Declaration on the Prevention and Control of Organized Transnational Crime and Corruption, adopted by the African Regional Ministerial Workshop on Action against Organized Transnational Crime and Corruption, held at Dakar from 21 to 23 July 1997,[2] and the Manila Declaration on the Prevention and Control of Transnational Crime, adopted by the Asian Regional Ministerial Workshop on Action against Organized Transnational Crime and Corruption, held at Manila from 23 to 25 March 1998,[3]

Convinced of the importance of continuous action by Member States aimed at the full implementation of the Naples Political Declaration and the Global Action Plan against Organized Transnational Crime, adopted by the World Ministerial Conference on Organized Transnational Crime, held at Naples, Italy, from 21 to 23 November 1994,[4]

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[1] E/CN.15/1996/2/Add.1, annex.
[2] E/CN.15/1998/6/Add.1, chap. I.
[3] E/CN.15/1998/6/Add.2, chap. I.
[4] A/49/748, annex, chap. I, sect. A.

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Convinced also of the need to proceed expeditiously with the elaboration of a convention against transnational organized crime,

Mindful of the fact that, pursuant to Economic and Social Council decision 1997/232 of 21 July 1997, the theme for the seventh session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was "Organized transnational crime",

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan against Organized Transnational Crime: question of the elaboration of an international convention against organized transnational crime, and other possible international instruments;[5]

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Government of Poland for acting as host to the meeting of the inter-sessional open-ended intergovernmental group of experts on the elaboration of a preliminary draft of a possible comprehensive international convention against organized transnational crime, held at Warsaw from 2 to 6 February 1998;

3. *Welcomes with appreciation* the report of the meeting of the group of experts;[6]

4. *Urges* Member States to continue making every possible effort to fully implement the Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan by taking the most appropriate legislative, regulatory and administrative measures, including those aimed at prevention;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue his work on the development and maintenance of the central repository established pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/27 of 24 July 1996;

6. *Urges* Member States to respond promptly to the requests of the Secretary-General for data, and other information and material, including legislation and pertinent regulatory texts, by submitting such information and material in accordance with the methodological points and categorization of data set forth in annex II to Economic and Social Council resolution 1997/22 of 21 July 1997, in order to facilitate the work of the Centre for International Crime Prevention of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention of the Secretariat;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue his work on the elaboration of training manuals for law enforcement and judicial personnel on action against transnational organized crime;

8. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to intensify his efforts to identify and allocate within the overall budget of the United Nations adequate resources for strengthening the capacity of the Centre for International Crime Prevention in order to assist Member States in the full implementation of the Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan;

9. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to continue providing Member States with technical cooperation, advisory services and other forms of assistance upon request in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, including in the area of prevention and control of transnational organized crime;

10. *Decides* to establish an open-ended intergovernmental ad hoc committee for the purpose of elaborating a comprehensive international convention against transnational organized crime and of discussing the elaboration, as appropriate, of international instruments addressing trafficking in women and children, combating the illicit

[5] E/CN.15/1998/6.

[6] E/CN.15/1998/5.

manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, and illegal trafficking in and transporting of migrants, including by sea;

11. *Welcomes with appreciation* the offer of the Government of Argentina to host an informal preparatory meeting of the ad hoc committee at Buenos Aires from 31 August to 4 September 1998, in order to enable the continuation without interruption of work on the elaboration of the convention;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to convene a meeting of the ad hoc committee at Vienna from 18 to 29 January 1999 and to consider the possibility of convening a second meeting before the eighth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, if this proves necessary to advance the process;

13. *Decides* to accept the recommendation of the Commission to elect Luigi Lauriola (Italy) as the Chairman of the ad hoc committee;

14. *Requests* the ad hoc committee, in carrying out its work pursuant to paragraph 10 above, to take into account the report of the inter-sessional open-ended intergovernmental group of experts established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 52/85,[7] the report of the working group on the implementation of the Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan against Organized Transnational Crime,[8] including its appendices, and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1998/18, 1998/19 and 1998/20;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the necessary resources to convene, support and follow up the work of the ad hoc committee;

16. *Invites* donor countries to cooperate with developing countries to ensure their full participation in the work of the ad hoc committee;

17. *Requests* the ad hoc committee to submit a progress report to the Commission at its eighth session and to hold a meeting during that session for at least three working days.

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[7] Ibid.

[8] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 10* (E/1998/30 and Corr.1), annex III.